

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 4 and 16-31, without prejudice or disclaimer the subject matter presented therein.

Please amend Claims 1 and 6, to read as follows. A marked-up copy of those claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

*7/15 C37*  
1. (Twice Amended) A method for processing an ink discharge port of an ink jet head provided with discharge ports for discharging ink, the discharge ports being provided on a discharge port plate, the method comprising the steps of:

closely contacting a mask plate having openings corresponding to the discharge ports with a face of the discharge port plate on an ink discharge side; and forming the discharge port on the discharge port plate by irradiating plural high energy ultraviolet beams simultaneously through the mask plate so that the beams are inclined with respect to a vertical axis that is perpendicular to the mask plate, wherein the formed discharge port has a shape that widens in a direction away from a source of the beams.

*B2*  
6. (Twice Amended) A method for manufacturing an ink jet head provided with discharge ports for discharging ink and a discharge port plate having the discharge ports, the method comprising the steps of:

closely contacting a mask plate having openings corresponding to the discharge ports with a face of the discharge port plate on an ink discharge side; and